

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Fluor Spar Production

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1. The main center of production for fluor spar in the Russian Zone is the southern Harz region, with two principal mines in operation. The Flussschacht mine near Rottleberode (M52/D22), formerly the property of IG Farben, is now a state-owned enterprise. Because issuing of information on fluor spar production is strictly prohibited by the Russians, the exact output of this mine is not known; but the Russian-imposed monthly quota is 1000 tons of acid flour (Säuremehl, also called flotation flour), and actual production as 1500 tons minimum and 2000 tons maximum per month. The acid flour is very finely ground material obtained by flotation of the original product, which is impure and mixed with heavy spar ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ). The works have their own flotation plant, in which the spar is ground into particles 0.1 and 0.2 millimeters in diameter and floated in an emulsion of water and volatile oils to separate it from impurities. The end product contains 98 percent of fluor spar ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ); the entire output goes to the Russians. The total deposit of this mine was estimated in 1941 as about 176,000 tons; at the present rate of exploitation the usable and economically profitable part will be exhausted in three years.

2. The Herzogschacht fluor spar mine near Siptenfelde-Strassberg (M52/D24), formerly Rütgers Works, is now a state-owned enterprise. Production figures are essentially the same as for Flussschacht, a monthly quota of 1000 tons of acid flour with 98 percent of  $\text{CaF}_2$ , obtained by flotation. The entire output goes to the Russians. Shortly before the end of the war the works received new equipment permitting excavation to a depth of 500 meters; the present level reached is 330 meters. In 1941 the known deposits of this mine were estimated as about 340,000 tons.

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3. Thuringia produces considerably less fluor spar than the Harz region, although exact figures are not available. The same is also true for the Vogtland region near Hof. The entire production of acid flour in the Russian Zone may therefore be safely estimated as between 2500 and a maximum of 3000 tons per month. All this goes to a factory in Dohna (N51/P27) near Dresden, formerly the property of the Rütgers Works but now state-owned. There it is worked up into hydro-fluoric acid (HF1); the imposed quota of 2000 tons a month goes to the Russians.

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